

THRILLING TALES OF HORROR & SUSPENSE

OCT.-NOV. 1951

L.M.
10¢

EERIE
ADVENTURES

DARK MYSTERIES

NO. 3

GHOSTS
from the
UNKNOWN!



TERROR
of the
**UNWILLING
WITCH**

WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT PIMPLES

Acne, Blackheads, and other externally caused Skin Blemishes

WHEN pimply skin is your problem, the first thing to get straight is that you can and *should* do something about it. To develop the attractiveness of your face is not mere vanity. It is an "open sesame" towards bringing the real YOU closer to other people and giving your personality the poise and confidence it needs. Your good qualities — intelligence, character, dignity — all go to naught...are completely cancelled out by a skin that "nobody loves to touch." Remember, the YOU that people see first is your face.

SKIN PROBLEMS

DEMAND IMMEDIATE CARE

Medical statistics tell us that blemished skin usually occurs from adolescence on through adult life. The problem at the adolescent stage is serious enough to deserve attentive care as a family matter. In adulthood, when life's responsibilities are so much weightier, it is doubly important to exert great effort to eliminate these blemishes. And, there is no better time to get pimples under control than *now*.

DON'T ABUSE SKIN

The first instinctive reaction to pimples and blackheads is to squeeze them out with your fingers. A bit of experimentation along these lines soon provides convincing proof that this succeeds only in inflaming your skin and spreading the infection. Under no circumstances should pimples and blackheads ever be squeezed.



MICROSCOPE SHOWS IMPORTANT BASIS FOR EXTERNALLY CAUSED PIMPLES AND BLACKHEADS

Let's take a look through the microscope to see what's behind those unsightly pimples. The high-powered lenses show your skin coated with a covering which originated from two sources—one, internally and the other, externally.

The internal substances on your skin include dead cells, residue from the sweat glands, and a high quantity of oil excreted by the sebaceous glands. A most important factor in skin disorders occurs when thousands of these tiny sebaceous glands discharge more oil than the skin can use for lubrication. Unless special care is given, the oil forms a heavy film which attracts foreign matter to your skin much as any oil mop picks up dust. These infectious external substances may be classified into three general groups:

1. Airborne materials such as dust, pollen, condensation products of smoke, vapors, etc.
2. Materials brought in contact with the skin, such as tiny fragments of clothing, bedding, cosmetics.
3. Micro-organisms such as bacteria and fungi.

See the difference between a healthy skin and a pimply skin in the microscopic reproductions below.



A. Normal skin



B. Sick, pimply skin

Diagram A shows a normal-size, smoothly functioning sebaceous gland. Diagram B pictures sick, pimply skin. Notice that the sebaceous gland is a swollen mass of trapped oil, waste and infectious bacteria.

TRY THIS SENSIBLE WAY

Two sensible aims to achieve in controlling this skin condition are: to clear the pores of clogging matter, and to inhibit the excessive oiliness of the skin. Toward these ends, Dornol Products' research makes available two formulas. One is to aid in thorough cleansing by highly detergent penetration, which simplifies the removal of waste and foreign matter. The other is to discourage oiliness with clinically-proved ingredients, and to kill infec-



tious bacteria often associated with externally caused pimples and blackheads.

BLEMISHES COVERED UP

To remove the distressing embarrassment of these skin blemishes, the second Dornol formula exerts a "cover-up" action on your broken out skin while the medication does its work. This, plus its pleasant odor, will spare you the mental distress which is associated with unsightly, malodorous, medicated preparations. Imagine! You can apply this Dornol formula to your skin by day and face the immediate present with greater confidence in your appearance, while secure in the knowledge that medication is acting to remove old blemishes and keep away new ones. What this "cover-up" action alone is worth in peace of mind is beyond calculation. No longer need prying eyes make you wince with humiliation and misery. Now because of this wonderful feature of the Dornol treatment, you can put your best foot forward...at once!

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

OR

DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK

We know what the Dornol treatment has done for others, so we want you to try it at our risk. A few minutes a day invested in our treatment can yield more gratifying results than you ever dared hope for. This is what we say to you: If you are not delighted in every way by the improved condition and general appearance of your skin in just 10 days, simply return the unused portion and we will refund not only the price you paid—but **DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK!** Can anything be fairer than that? You have everything to gain...and we take all the risk!

How to get the Dornol Treatment immediately:

Just send your name and address to DORNOL PRODUCTS, Inc., Dept. 8208, 363 Central Park Ave., Yonkers, N. Y. Be sure to print clearly. By return mail we will ship the Dornol treatment to you in a plain package. When postman delivers the package, pay only \$1.98 plus postage. Or, if you wish to save postal fee, send \$2 now and we will pay postage. Which ever way you order, the **DOUBLE REFUND GUARANTEE** still prevails. Don't delay another minute, send for the Dornol Medicated Skin treatment with "cover-up" feature...at once! Sorry, no Canadian C.O.D.'s.

DARK MYSTERIES is published bi-monthly by Master Comics Inc. at 353 Third Street, Niagara Falls, N. Y. Editorial and executive offices at 11 East 44th Street, New York 17, N. Y. Second class entry applied for at the Post Office at Niagara Falls, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Single copy 10c, 6 copies 60c. Copyright 1951 by Master Comics Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions appearing in this magazine with those of any living person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Vol. 1, No. 3, October-November 1951 issue.

PRINTED IN CANADA.

WHEN EUGENE GORDON ENTERED THE DREAD ARENA OF FORBIDDEN KNOWLEDGE--THE **OGGULT**--
IN ORDER TO EXPERIENCE THE CHILLING EXCITEMENT OF THE DARK AND MYSTERIOUS **UNKNOWN**,
HE WAS LITTLE PREPARED FOR THE UNHOLY HORROR THAT EMERGED FROM

THE DREAD BOOK OF BETARIN



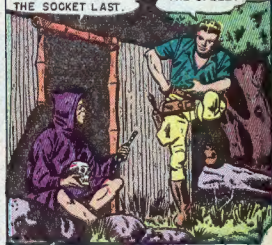
THIS IS EUGENE GORDON, A YOUNG MAN WHO INHERITED PERHAPS **700** MUCH WEALTH. WHAT HAD STARTED AS A HOBBY HAD BECOME AN OBSESSION, AND THIS OBSESSION WAS MAGIC--THE **BLACK MAGIC** OF THE MEDIEVAL SORCERERS AND WIZARDS.



SUCH IS HIS WEALTH, YOUNG GORDON HAS BEEN ABLE TO TRAVEL TO FAR PLACES TO STUDY THE PRIMITIVE REMNANTS OF ANCIENT **MAGIC**.

SEE, YOUNG MASTER, THE STICK OF SARDU MUST ENCIRCLE THE LEFT THE SOCKET LAST.

I UNDERSTAND. AND THAT, OF COURSE, COMPLETES THE SPELL.



His wealth has enabled him to assemble an unusual collection of magical books and apparatus.

IT'S VERY EXPENSIVE, I'LL TAKE BUT THIS IDOL COMES FROM THE IT. RUINS OF ANKOR VAT... IT IS OBVIOUSLY THE WORK OF A SIAMESE MAGICIAN.

THIS CURIOUS OBSESSION TAKES EUGENE GORDON INTO A DARK, NARROW ALLEYWAY SEEKING A BLACK ARTS BOOK A COLLECTOR FRIEND HAS TOLD HIM ABOUT...

STRANGE--I'VE NEVER NOTICED THIS PLACE BEFORE. BUT THIS IS THE STREET OF THE BOOKSHOP. ALL RIGHT.

IF THEY REALLY HAVE A BLACK BOOK, A GRIMORE, AS I'VE BEEN TOLD, IT'S CERTAINLY KEPT IN AN APPROPRIATE PLACE FOR IT.

THE GRIMORE! WELL...YE--YES, I DO HAVE ONE DATING BACK TO THE YEAR 100 B.C. BUT I'M SURE YOU WON'T WANT IT.



JUST THE SAME, IF IT'S FOR SALE, I'D LIKE TO LOOK AT IT--NOW!

CERTAINLY, IF YOU INSIST, BUT I MUST WARN YOU, YOUNG MAN, THIS BOOK HOLDS MANY HORRIBLE SECRETS... AND DANGER!

THIS MANUSCRIPT CONTAINS THE ACTUAL WORKING NOTES OF AN ANCIENT MAGICIAN... INCLUDED FORMULAS FOR CALLING BACK THE DEAD. IT'S DANGEROUS! IF YOU MUST HAVE IT, THE PRICE IS...ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS!

LET ME SEE IT, PLEASE!



WHAT A WEIRD SENSATION! I COULD SWEAR I FELT **MOVEMENT** WITHIN THE OILSKIN COVER AS I TOOK THE BOOK FROM HIS HAND.



GORDON HAS BUT TO GLANCE AT ITS ANCIENT HANDWRITTEN PAGES FILLED WITH SPELLS AND INCANTATIONS FOR CALLING BACK THE DEAD, TO KNOW THAT HE **MUST** HAVE IT!

I'LL TAKE IT. ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS IS CHEAP FOR THIS MANUSCRIPT.

SIR, I BEG YOU TO RECONSIDER! I'D RATHER **NOT** SELL THIS **GRIMORE** TO YOU!



BUT GORDON BUYS THE **BLACK BOOK**, AND IS WALKING AWAY WHEN SUDDENLY...

GORDON, YOUNG GORDON! BEWARE OF THE BOOK OF BETARIN! IT IS FILLED WITH EVIL- IT HAS THE CURSE OF MANY CENTURIES, MANY VOICES ON IT.

WHA-WHAT? WHO'S BETARIN? WHO ARE YOU, OLD WOMAN?



HEH, HEH, HEH! NEVER MIND WHO I AM. I SAY-- **DO NOT KEEP THE BOOK!** RETURN IT NOW, WHILE YOU CAN.



GORDON, FOR BUT A SECOND, TAKES HIS EYES OFF THE MYSTERIOUS OLD HAG AND-- WHEN HE LOOKS UP AGAIN--

SHE-- SHE'S DISAPPEARED! I DON'T GET ALL THIS. MAYBE I **SHOULD** RETURN THE BOOK.



GORDON RETRACES HIS STEPS TO THE OLD BOOKSHOP, AND...

B- BUT... I **KNOW** THIS IS WHERE THE SHOP WAS! I'M **SURE** OF IT! SOMETHING IS **WRONG**!



AFTER DINNER, GORDON SITS DOWN TO EXAMINE MORE CAREFULLY THE **BLACK BOOK OF BETARIN.**

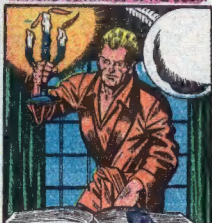
AGAIN IT FELT AS THOUGH THE BOOK SQUIRMED WHEN I PICK IT UP! OBVIOUSLY, I HAVE HERE THE PRIZE OF MY COLLECTION.



AH! IT IS THE GRIMORE OF BETARIN! --ARCHAIC WAYS TO CALL BACK THE SHADES OF THE DEAD. I'LL TRY ONE--SEE WHAT HAPPENS--IF ANYTHING.



LITTLE REALIZING THE UNCOMMON HORRORS HE IS ABOUT TO WITNESS, GORDON PREPARES THE ROOM FOR A SEANCE, AFTER CAREFULLY STUDYING ONE OF THE MORE ELEMENTARY INCANTATIONS CONTAINED IN THE BOOK.



THE BOOK SAYS THAT TO STAND INSIDE A PENTAGON WILL BE MY ONLY PROTECTION. FORTUNATELY, IN MY COLLECTION I HAVE ALL THE MATERIALS NEEDED FOR THIS SEANCE.

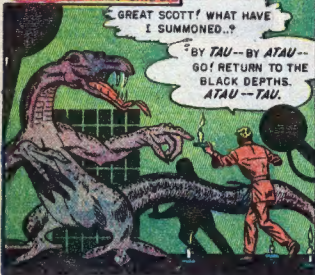


FOR HIS FIRST EXPERIMENT IN THE BLACK ART OF CALLING UP THE SOULS OF THE DEAD FROM THE ETERNITY OF HADES, GORDON CHOOSES TO SUMMON BACK AN **ELEMENTAL**—ONE NEITHER HUMAN NOR ANIMAL, NEITHER DEAD NOR ALIVE!

SHOG--SHOG--
YUOTHOTH!
HAI--TA.
YUOTHOTH!



AS GORDON BEGINS THE INCANTATION, A HORRIBLE APPARITION TAKES SHAPE.



GREAT SCOTT! WHAT HAVE I SUMMONED..?

BY TAU--BY ATAU--
GO! RETURN TO THE
BLACK DEPTHS.
ATAU--TAU.

HOW GHASTLY! WHAT IF I HADN'T KNOWN TO DRAW THE **PROTECTIVE PENTAGON**?



SO...THIS FIRST TIME...GORDON IS SAVED BY THE POWER OF THE PROTECTIVE PENTAGON AND IS ABLE TO SEND THE LIVING NIGHTMARE SCREAMING BACK TO ITS FOUL LAIR WITH WORDS OF EXORCISM CONTAINED IN THE **BOOK OF BETARIN**.

THE EXPERIENCE HAS A SOBERING EFFECT UPON THE BRASH YOUNG MAN. WHEW! THAT WAS **TOO**

CLOSE FOR COMFORT. GUESS THE OLD HAG WHO TRIED TO WARN ME WAS RIGHT. TONIGHT WAS BOTH THE **FIRST** AND THE **LAST** TIME FOR ME!



THERE! THAT'S WHERE YOU BELONG. YOU'RE AS DANGEROUS AS THEY SAY. NO MORE FOR ME. I'M THROUGH... I'M CURED!



SUCH RESOLUTIONS ARE EASIER MADE THAN KEPT. WITHIN A FEW DAYS, GORDON ONCE MORE HOLDS THE **BOOK OF BETARIN** IN HIS HANDS. AFTER

ALL, I WASN'T HURT THE OTHER EVENING. THE CHARM OF THE PENTAGON WORKED PERFECTLY



I'LL TRY ONCE MORE, BUT THIS TIME I'LL SUMMON AN ACTUAL PERSON... ONE I CAN TALK TO, PERHAPS LEARN SOMETHING FROM.

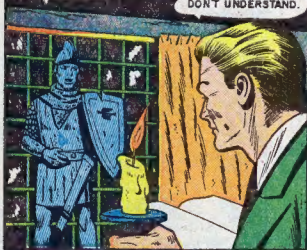


NICTA...SHATHOR! NICTA...SHATHOR! I SUMMON BACK A CITIZEN OF THE ANCIENT ROMAN EMPIRE. COME TO ME, COME!



AD SUM. (I AM PRESENT)
CUI BONO?? (WHO BENEFITS
BY IT?)

WHAT? OF COURSE
HE'S SPEAKING
LATIN... WHICH I
DON'T UNDERSTAND.



HOW COULD I HAVE FORGOTTEN LANGUAGE?
NATURALLY I CAN'T TALK TO HIM. SO-- BACK
YOU GO TO LIMBO. BY TAU, BY ATEM--GO!



DROON--TZA. ABDEET--AB.
DRAT, I'VE LOST THE PLACE!
OH HERE IT IS--DROON
TZA. ABDEET. AB--
DROON-- IZA.

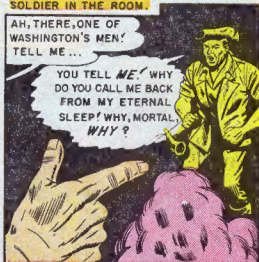


DISAPPOINTED,
GORDON DETER-
MINES TO TRY
TO CALL UP
THE SHADE OF
A SOLDIER OF
THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION.

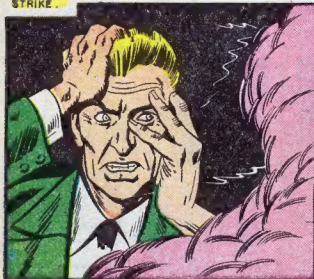
THAT SLIP WAS ALMOST FATAL, FOR IN
THE MOMENT OF GORDON'S HESITATION
A VENGEFUL ELEMENTAL JOINED THE
SOLDIER IN THE ROOM.

AH, THERE, ONE OF
WASHINGTON'S MEN!
TELL ME...

YOU TELL ME! WHY
DO YOU CALL ME BACK
FROM MY ETERNAL
SLEEP! WHY, MORTAL,
WHY?



AT THAT MOMENT THE ELEMENTAL CHOSE TO
STRIKE.



CLOSE! TOO CLOSE! ONLY THE MAGIC OF THE
PENTAGON SAVED ME. NOW FOR THE WORDS OF
EXORCISM... BY ASHARETH. BY ICHNETH.
GO... GO...



FOR LONG HOURS THAT NIGHT, GORDON LAY IN HIS BED THINKING OF THE DANGERS INHERENT IN THE HORRIBLE GAME HE WAS PLAYING.

TWO O'CLOCK, BUT AT LAST I'VE MADE A DECISION. I'LL HAVE ONE MORE SEANCE, AND THAT WILL POSITIVELY BE THE LAST ONE.



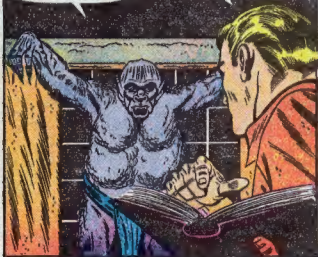
THAT NIGHT GORDON, FOR THE LAST TIME, SETS UP THE PARAPHERNALIA NEEDED TO CALL BACK A SHADE FROM THE BLACK MAW OF "NOWHERE." HE OPENS THE **BLACK BOOK** AND STARTS AN INCANTATION.

SLII HAR. SLII HAR. I'THER. SLII HAR. SLII HAR. NIHOWATLY!



THE BOOK OF BETARIN! MY BOOK. HOW COME YOU BY MY BOOK?

YOU?...BETARIN?... THIS WAS YOUR GRIMORE?



YES, MINE! THE GREATEST OF THE ADEPTS... EVEN THOUGH I WAS CAPTURED AND TORTURED AS A **SORGERER**. WAIT! THE COVER! THE COVER ON MY BOOK.

TH...THE COVER? WHAT ABOUT IT?



SO THAT'S WHAT THEY DID WITH THE SKIN OFF MY BACK! THEY FLAYED ME ALIVE. THEY BOUND MY BOOK WITH MY SKIN! THEY...EEEEEEEEEE!

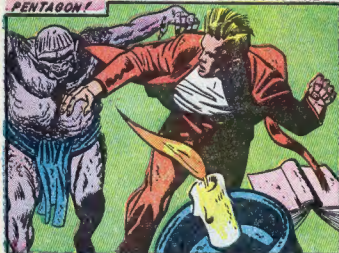


HELP!...NO!...BACK TO THE PIT...THE EXORCISM... WHERE... HELP!...

YOU USE MY BOOK, BOUND IN MY SKIN... ARRUGGGH!

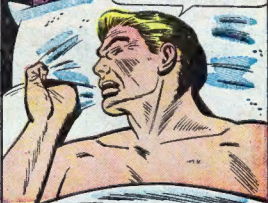


SUCH WAS THE INSANE FURY OF BETARIN'S ANGER AND ATTACK, THAT GORDON INVOLUNTARILY RECOILED TOO FAR--OUT OF THE PROTECTIVE BOUNDS OF THE PENTAGON!



MERCIFULLY THE DAMP OBLIVION OF UN-CONSCIOUSNESS SWEEPED OVER GORDON. HE AWOKE, HOURS LATER, IN THE WHITENESS OF A HOSPITAL BED...

OH, MY BACK! I'VE NEVER KNOWN SUCH PAIN. NURSE! NURSE!



OH, SO YOU'RE AWAKE AT LAST...

MY BACK! WHAT HAPPENED? HOW DID I GET HERE?



THE NURSE QUICKLY EXPLAINS TO GORDON THAT HE WAS FOUND BY HIS BUTLER AFTER AN ATTACK BY A SADISTIC FIEND, AS YET UN-CAPTURED, WHO HAS CRUELLY FLAYED HIS BACK OF ALL SKIN...

MR. GORDON, A MAN WHO REFUSED TO GIVE HIS NAME JUST LEFT THIS PACKAGE FOR YOU. HE SAID YOU'D UNDERSTAND.



THE BLACK BOOK OF BETARIN!

QUICK! CALL HIS DOCTOR!



THIS BOOK UPSET HIM. HE KEPT SCREAMING THAT THE BOOK WAS BOUND WITH SKIN STRIPPED FROM HIS BACK. HAS HE LOST HIS MIND? OR WAS HE JUST DELIRIOUS WITH PAIN?



NURSE. NURSE! THIS BOOK IS BOUND IN HUMAN SKIN! AND...IT... IT IS MR. GORDON'S SKIN!

AT THAT MOMENT HAD ANYONE BEEN LISTENING CLOSELY HE COULD HAVE HEARD AN EERIE BURST OF LAUGHTER—LAUGHTER CHOKED BY FLAME AND SMOKE, LAUGHTER WELLING UP AND UP FROM THE DARK DEPTHS OF HADES THAT HAD NEVER BEFORE KNOWN TRUE MERRIMENT.

• The End •

GHOSTS FROM MARS



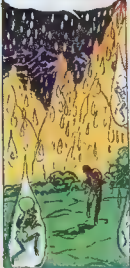
IS IT POSSIBLE? IS THIS THE REAL...AND HORRIBLE...EXPLANATION OF THE "FLYING SAUCER" MYSTERY? WHIRLING IN OUT OF OMINOUS OUTER SPACE, A DEADLY GHOST-PLAGUE TERRIFIES THE AMERICAN CONTINENT! HOW CAN THESE STRANGE SUPER-GHOSTS THREATEN EVERY LIFE ON EARTH? AND WHAT CAN BE DONE TO COMBAT THESE DEVIL-DEMONS?

ONE NIGHT, OVER DESERT AREA IN THE WEST, HIGH-FLYING SAUCER--SHAPED SHIPS DISGORGE A DEADLY CARGO...



KLAXDAXI.
KLAX!

GOOD HEAVENS!
IT'S RAINING TINY
DEAD MONSTERS!



RUN FOR
YOUR
LIVES!

NOW THOSE FLYING
SAUCERS ARE SPINNING
BACK...OUT INTO
STAR SPACE!



WHILE ON THE MOUNTAIN-TOP RETREAT, IS DON BLANT, A NOTED SCIENTIST AND STUDENT OF SPIRITUALISM AND STARS...

FIRST ALL THOSE RED LINES SHOOTING FROM THE PLANET MARS, AND NOW THOSE STRANGE GLOWING LIGHTS IN THE VALLEY... SOMEHOW, I'M AFRAID...AFRAID!



BUT I MUST SEE WHAT'S GOING ON...UGGHH! WHAT'S THAT COLD AND SLIMY THING THAT TOUCHED ME?



SKELETONS? DEAD CREATURES? THESE CORPSES ARE SURROUNDING ME!



HORRIFIED, DON FIGHTS FOR HIS LIFE THROUGH THE STICKY AND SHINY GHOSTLY BLOB!

THEY CLING LIKE SOME VILE AND EVIL JELLY! AHHH! CAN I REACH MY LAB BEFORE THEY OVERWHELM ME?



AND IN THE FARM VALLEY AND TOWN BELOW, THE AWE-SOME RAIN OF UNKNOWN "THINGS" COVERS ALL... SPREADING FEAR AND DEATH AND DESTRUCTION...

MY HORSES ARE SMOTHERED, DEAD AND DYING!



ABANDON THE CARS! RUN...IF YOU CAN!

IS THIS THE END OF THE WORLD?



WITHIN THE HOUR, AT THE STATE CAPITOL, THE GOVERNOR DECLARES AN EMERGENCY AND ORDERS MARTIAL LAW...

...USE PLANES, ALL STATE TROOPERS! WHATEVER THIS MENACE IS...IT'S TOTAL WAR!

I'LL TRY TO GET THE SCIENTIST, DON BLANT...COMPLAINTS ALL COMING FROM HIS AREA!

YOU'RE AN AUTHORITY ON THE OCCULT! WHAT ARE THOSE "THINGS"? BLANT, CAN YOU HELP US?

I'VE GOT TO HELP, SIR! THEY'RE OOOZING INTO MY LAB NOW!

MY THEORY IS, THEY'RE FROM THE PLANET, MARS. I'LL CALL YOU BACK UNLESS THEY GET ME FIRST!

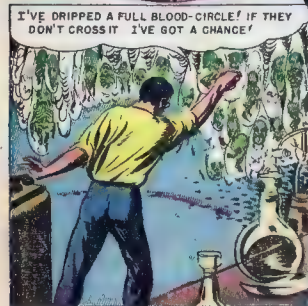
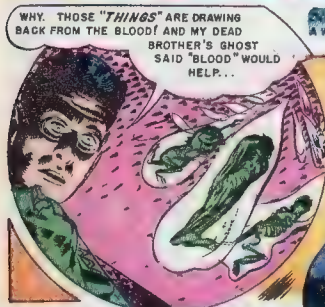
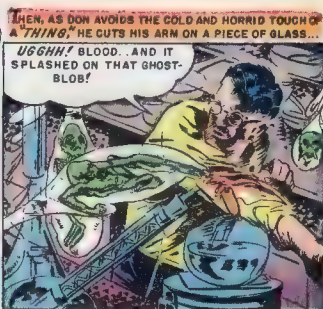
NOW THEY'RE MASSING FOR AN ATTACK! THEY FADE AND ALMOST DISAPPEAR... JUST LIKE GHOSTS!

HIS SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS HELPLESS TO AID HIM, DON BLANT CLOSES HIS EYES AND CALLS FOR HELP FROM THE SPIRIT WORLD OF THE DEAD!

ALLEN... MY LONG-DEAD BROTHER! YOU'VE OFTEN ADVISED ME. HELP ME NOW!

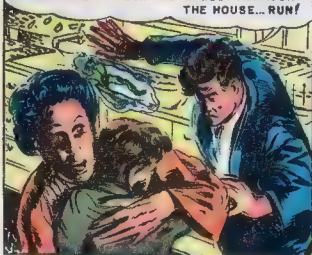
IS THIS THE PHANTOM "FORM" OF DEAD ALLEN BLANT TAKING SHAPE OUT OF NOTHING?

THESE "THINGS" ARE GHOSTS, AS I AM! BUT THEY ARE GHOSTS OF DEAD MARS-MEN! FIGHT THEM WITH BLOOD. BLOOD.



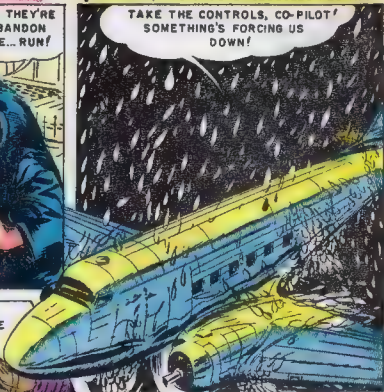
MEANWHILE, THE "THINGS" ARE WREAKING
HAVOC EVERYWHERE...

EEEE! NOW THEY'RE
IN THE WATER PIPES...AND WALLS! ABANDON
THE HOUSE... RUN!



IN THE AIR, THE GHOSTLY GLOBULES FLOAT...

TAKE THE CONTROLS, CO-PILOT!
SOMETHING'S FORCING US
DOWN!



NOW THOSE "THINGS"
ARE IN THE SHIP!

AGGHH!
THEY'RE ON THE
CONTROLS!



THEY'RE ALL OVER ME...
I'D RATHER BE DEAD!



ON THE GROUND, POLICE PATROLS
TRY TO WARN ALL CITIZENS...BUT
THE DRIPPING MENACES DOOM ANY-
ONE THEY TOUCH...



THEY'RE IN
THE CAR,
TWISTING
THE WHEEL...
AAHHHH!

LOOK! THE "THINGS" DO AVOID HUMAN
BLOOD! RADIO THE GOVERNOR THAT DON
BLANT MAY BE RIGHT..



IN DON BLANT'S LAB, HIS EXPERIMENTS SHOW AMAZING RESULTS...

IT'S FANTASTIC WEIRD!
"GHOSTS" OF DEAD MARS-MEN...
THEY DON'T DISAPPEAR AND
CAN'T BE DESTROYED...
NOT EVEN BY
FIRE!!

BUT A THIN PLASTIC-FILM BUBBLE MIXED
WITH A SPOT OF BLOOD HOLDS THEM
QUIET PRISONERS!

BUT CAN WE GET ENOUGH BLOOD PLASMA FROM THE
HOSPITALS TO CAPTURE ALL THOSE GHOST-GLOBES?

AS DAWN BREAKS, DON BLANT DIRECTS SPRAYING
CREWS... AND THE "THINGS" ARE ROUNDED UP!

IT WORKS... WE'RE
CLEARING THE
SKY!

THE GHOSTS ARE SHRINK-
ING RETREATING!

BLANT, NOW WE'VE COL-
LECTED THESE GHOSTLY
HORRORS... WHAT CAN
WE DO WITH THEM?
YOU SAID THEY'RE
INDESTRUCTIBLE!

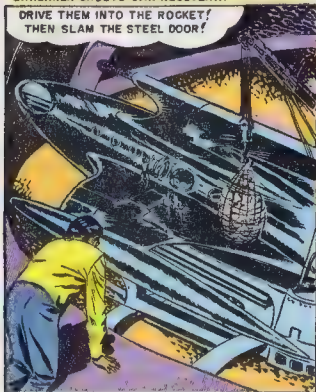
HOW LONG WILL BLOOD
SPRAY CONTROL THEM?
THEY'RE UNDYING...
DANGEROUS...

WE'VE GOT TO
DESTROY THEM,
BUT HOW?

HMMM. THE
ROCKET STA-
TION NEAR
HERE! THE PRO-
JECTILE THEY'RE
SHOOTING AT THE
MOON.

ARMY AUTHORITIES CONSENT... AND BEFORE THE SHRUNKEN GHOSTS CAN RECOVER...

**DRIVE THEM INTO THE ROCKET!
THEN SLAM THE STEEL DOOR!**

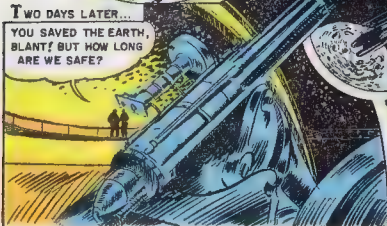


IT WILL CIRCLE THE MOON FOREVER... A ROCKET-PLANET FULL OF DEADLY GHOSTS!



TWO DAYS LATER...

**YOU SAVED THE EARTH,
BLANT! BUT HOW LONG
ARE WE SAFE?**

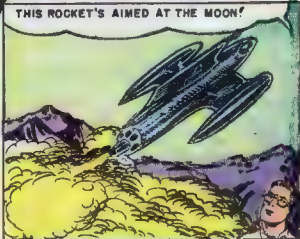


**UGHHH! THEY HAVE THE
COLD FEEL OF DEATH!**

**IF THEY EVER
GET LOOSE...
THEY'LL SMOTHER
US ALL!**



THIS ROCKET'S AIMED AT THE MOON!

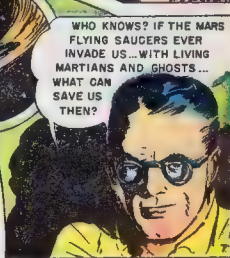


**DON BLANT EXPLAINS HIS AMAZING THEORY TO
THE GOVERNOR...**

**... AND I THINK THE MARTIANS
DROPPED THEM ON US BECAUSE
THESE GHOSTS GOT OUT OF
CONTROL ON MARS!**



**WHO KNOWS? IF THE MARS
FLYING SAUCERS EVER
INVADE US... WITH LIVING
MARTIANS AND GHOSTS...
WHAT CAN
SAVE US
THEN?**



THE OCCULT NOTEBOOK

of

DARK MYSTERIES

BEFORE the days of radio, television and the movies, on cold nights that were dark and windswept, families and their neighbors would gather about the leaping flames of the fireplace to talk. Then the old tales would be told: ghost stories, legends of deeds long past, stories of witchcraft, vampires, the Evil Eye, were-wolfs and of zombies—the undying dead.

Bowls of popcorn would be passed, and apples would be roasting on the hearth; but still—to those listening to their elders tell of the old days, of Dark Mysteries past—there would come an eerie chill, chill not brought by the icy seeking fingers of the winter's wind.

Here are gathered together some of the basic ingredients of these ancient tales and legends; the core of historical fact upon which the tale-tellers of yesteryear based their yarns and ghost stories.

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Through the centuries, mankind has always sought to see into the future. Because of this, hundreds of superstitious methods of divination were developed ranging from Bibliomancy, in which the Bible was opened at random and the person who wished to know of his future then attempted to learn of it by interpreting the first lines read; to Ornsicopy, a method used by the Romans and other ancient peoples in which the cries and calls of ravens, crows, cocks, or owls were carefully listened to in hope that these sounds could foretell the future.

* * * * *

However, of all methods of divination none approached for sheer horror that of Necromancy by which individuals attempted to learn of what was to happen in time to come by calling up the shades of dead people and questioning them. The method was so widespread and so popular during the Middle Ages that the evil art of Necromancy was taught as a regular subject at the Spanish Universities of Seville, Toledo, and Salamanca

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There are numerous superstitions concerning the

horse. Among the more common of these are: if a person buys a horse and changes its name he will have bad luck with it; to meet a piebald horse on the road at the start of a journey is a lucky omen; a hair from a horse's tail when soaked over night in rain water will turn into a water snake; that some blacksmiths possess what is known as "the horseman's word," a word which gives them complete control over all horses brought to them!

* * * * *

Another horse belief is that at times a witch would change her husband through use of a magic bridle, into a horse and ride him to the witches' meetings—the dread Sabbats and Esbats. At other times the witch might become the horse herself and gallop wildly off through the dark night to the meetings. From these old tales perhaps our word "nightmare" was derived.

* * * * *

The use of an image to bring about death is to be found the world over. The "bruja," or Mexican witch of the Southwest, will make a figure of a person from sand on a creek bank and curse the person to be done away with while jabbing the sand figure with a sharp stick. The European witch of the past made her death dolls of wax or clay, imbedding within them nail parings, a snip of hair, or even a shred of cloth once worn by the person to be killed in this fashion. The image completed, sharp pins or wooden bodkins would slowly be pushed through vital areas of the image, the belief being that in these same areas the person the image represented would also feel pain and find death.

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By far the most popular of the were-animals in the old tales is the "were-wolf," and yet there are dozens of other animals which, in popular tradition, have also been "were." This means that they have the power to return to their original human form; being, in actuality, people who have changed

into the animal to enable them to travel abroad at night to frighten and kill. In Ceylon there are were-tigers. in Africa, were-leopards and were-snakes, in Haiti and Cuba, were-goats, in Alaska, were-bears, and in the American Southwest, were-owls and were-coyotes, to name but a few.

* * * * *

The belief in the existence of The Evil Eye is one of the oldest and most widely spread of all superstitions. All centuries and all peoples have known this curious belief that there are certain individuals who can, with a look from their eyes alone, bring harm, sickness or even death to other people! In some European countries it is believed that The Evil Eye can be acquired, but the most common belief is that a person either has The Evil Eye or hasn't, and can't do anything about it one way or the other. Methods of combating the Evil Eye are many, ranging from placing a blue bead on a string about a child's neck (which is an Arabian belief) to painting the window and door frames blue as is done in New Mexico and Arizona.

* * * * *

With the growth of the belief in witchcraft there was a corresponding development of methods that would prove effective in fighting the witch. Elaborate rituals were performed to protect a house from the entry of witches. Many people carried amulets or other charms against potential witchery while many others joined actively in the seeking out and persecution of witches. Such people were called "Witch Finders" and were paid so much per witch discovered. These Witch Finders were outright frauds and sent untold innocent people to a horrible death at the stake, so that they might collect their fee. Crosses of salt or needles, Holy Water, the Bible, silver scissors and bodkins were also thought to be effective weapons.

* * * * *

Other superstitious weapons out of the past are those of silver bullets or cross marked bullets to be used against were-animals; the belief that the only way a vampire could be killed was to drive a wooden stake through its heart; strings of garlic worn about the neck to protect a sleeping person from vampires; wolfbone above doors and windows to prevent entry of were-wolves; and, the development of a complex system of signs to be made with the fingers and hands to stop The Evil Eye or to

prevent a witch or wizard from "over looking" a person—this last being a belief that the soul could be snatched away through the eyes by the compelling power of a witch or wizard's eyes who "over looked" a person, thus driving him insane.

* * * * *

The weird tales of the Vampire are most frequently found originating in Central and Southern Europe but the belief in the Vampire is world-wide and the pattern varies little. The Vampire is one of the "un-dead"—neither alive nor dead—who exists on through Eternity, his food being blood taken from wounds in the throats of his living victims; the night is his day, for he cannot stand sunlight; the coffin is his bed; the bat is his disguise.

* * * * *

"Dowsing" or "divining" rods are age-old. They are mentioned as such in the Bible and some scholars even go so far as to say or argue that the rod Moses used to strike a rock with to bring forth a gushing spring of water, was actually nothing more than a divining rod. Today the dowsing rod is almost forgotten, and when used is used to seek water, and once in a while, oil, but during the Middle Ages it was used by miners to locate ore, to find lost treasures, sunken ships, and even the bodies of drowned or murdered people!

* * * * *

The Coven of the witches consisted of twelve members so that with their leader would be the number "thirteen." These Covens met frequently but at no set times. Twice a year there would be regional meetings called "Sabbats" at which thirteen Covens would assemble to swap gossip and magical recipes, worship the Devil, dance and feast, and take part in unspeakable orgies. Their yearly meeting was called the "Esbat," at which all the Covens possible would assemble, and was usually held on Brokula Mountain in the Black Forest of Germany. Thus it can be seen that the witch of the Middle Ages was but a unit within a large and well organized group.

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These have been but random notes taken from the vast accumulation of material concerning mankind's superstitious and occult past. Science and education are slowly but surely doing away with the evil elements of our dark past that still survive. But—there is still a long way to go.

BEAUTIFUL GIRLS ARE OFTEN CALLED "CATS" AND "WITCHES" BY JEALOUS FRIENDS. BUT CAN A LOVELY CREATURE'S FLESH SHUDDER AND CHANGE INTO A BEAST-FORM THAT FLIES THROUGH THE AIR LIKE A WITCH? WHAT ANCIENT AND DREAD CURSE, WHAT EVIL POWERS CAN CONTROL THE TORTURED AND TWISTED BRAIN AND BODY OF

THE UNWILLING WITCH

MY LOVE? YOU'RE NOT DEAD!
BUT YOU'RE CHANGING... INTO
SOMETHING HORRIBLE!



ONE NIGHT AT THE COUNTRY CLUB DANCE, JANE FINALLY ADMITS SHE LOVES BOB. BUT TEARFULLY INSISTS SHE CAN NEVER, NEVER, HOPE TO MARRY HIM.

BUT WHY?
WHY?

PLEASE, BOB. I CAN'T
TELL YOU. YOU'D
NEVER BELIEVE
ME.



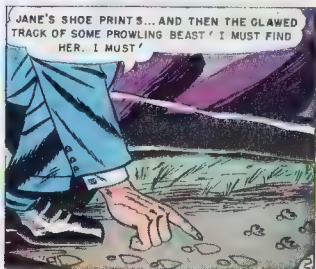
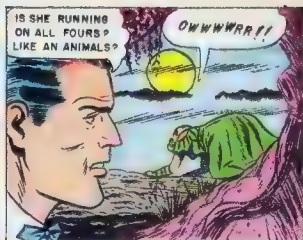
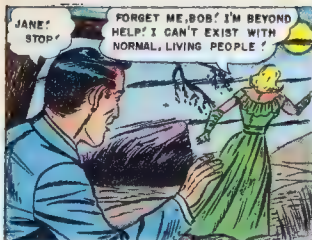
SUDDENLY, A WEIRD GLARE COMES INTO JANE'S
UPROLLED EYES. HER BODY SHAKES WILDLY.

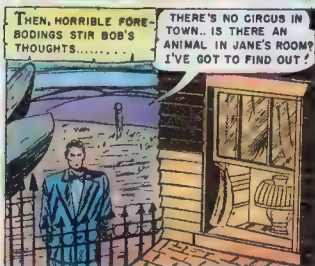
JANE! YOU'RE
TREMBLING...
SO STRANGELY!



OHHH IT'S COMING
OVER ME AGAIN! RUN,
BOB! DON'T WATCH...
DON'T FOLLOW ME...







BOB, MUCH WORRIED, LEAVES JANE... THE NEXT MIDNIGHT, AS BOB DOZES OFF IN HIS ROOM, TWO DREADFUL SHAPES WATCH AND WAIT...

PROMISED NOT TO SEE HER... BUT IF WHAT I FEAR IS TRUE, THEN SHE MUST BE DESTROYED... OOHNN... SLEEP...



I FEEL A BESTIAL BREATH AND PURRING, LIKE A GIANT CAT! I'M COLD WITH FEAR... MUST WAKE UP... NIGHTMARE?



GROWLING, THE BEASTLY THING SPRINGS TO GET ITS FANGS IN BOB'S THROAT...

AAHH! IT'S NOT A DREAM!

AAARRHH!



UOHH! IT'S NOT A JUNGLE BEAST... MORE LIKE A WOMAN TURNED CAT! REACH MY GUN.

ARRHH!

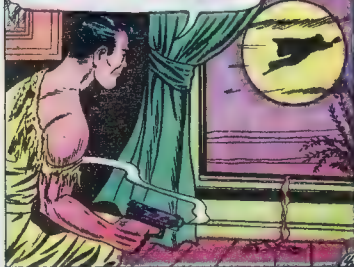


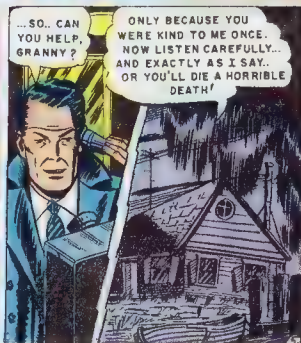
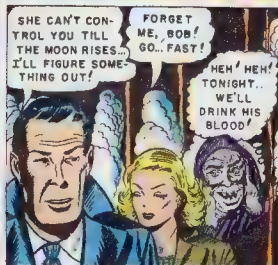
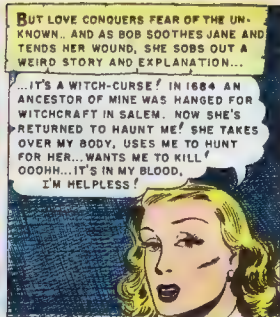
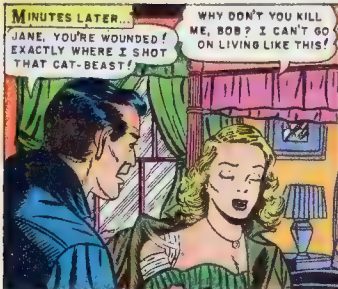
DON'T WANT TO SHOOT... BUT I HAVE TO!

EEEEEEEE!



BLOOD! I HIT IT! THERE'S THAT FORM ACROSS THE MOON AGAIN NOW TO JANE'S HOUSE, TO FIND OUT THE WORST!





AT MIDNIGHT, AS THE MOON RISES... AT JANE'S HOUSE AND BOB'S...

YOU'LL SOON BE READY, MY UN-WILLING SLAVE! YOU'RE MY BLOOD-DAUGHTER!

I GOT THIS OLD HANG-MAN'S NOOSE AND ROPE FROM MY WARDEN FRIEND AT THE PRISON.

THERE THEY ARE NOW

BITE FAST AND DEEP... INTO WARM THROAT BLOOD!

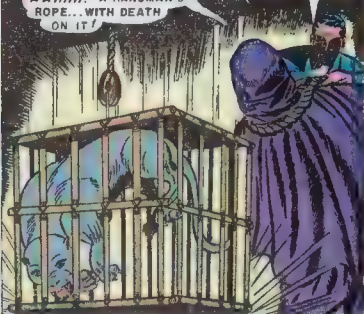
A ARRHHH!

BLAZING LIGHT FLOODS THE ROOM AS BOB QUICKLY SPRINGS HIS PREPARED TRAPS...

DON'T LIKE ROPES, DO YOU? I'M FIGHTING FOR JANE'S LIFE!

AAHHH! A HANGMAN'S ROPE... WITH DEATH ON IT!

KILL!! KILL!! I'LL SWITCH THE LIGHT... THE CAGE WILL DROP... AND THEN I NEED THIS ROPE AND A FLAMING TORCH...



LET ME FADE! LET ME DIS-APPEAR... I'LL NEVER RETURN!

THE CONJUR WOMAN WAS RIGHT! A HANGED WITCH CAN'T STAND THE TOUCH OF A HANG-MAN'S NOOSE!

AFTER BOB BREAKS THE CHARMED ROPE CIRCLE AND BANISHES THE EVIL PHANTOM FROM THE EARTH...

NO WITCH CAN EVER RETURN TO THOSE WHO DEFEAT HER!

NOW TO SEE IF I CAN RECALL JANE FROM THAT CAT-BEAST.





A WITCH-GAT'S WHISKERS MUST BE SINGED ...

RRRRRRRR!
SSSSSS!



AS THE SPITTING, SNARLING CAT-FORM ALMOST BURSTS ITS GAGE...

IF IT DOESN'T WORK...I MUST KILL THIS BEAST...AND THAT MIGHT KILL JANE



UNDER HER LOVER'S AMAZED EYES, THE FORM OF HIS BELOVED JANE SHAPES ITSELF FROM THE HUGE BEAST

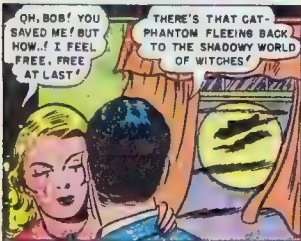
THE CHARM WORKS! JANE'S CHANGING BACK...THE BEAST'S DISAPPEARING!



BOB...
BOB!

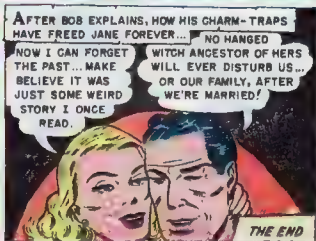
AAARRR!!

JANE, COME BACK! COME BACK TO NORMAL LIFE!



OH, BOB! YOU SAVED ME! BUT HOW...! I FEEL FREE, FREE AT LAST!

THERE'S THAT CAT-PHANTOM FLEEING BACK TO THE SHADOWY WORLD OF WITCHES!



AFTER BOB EXPLAINS, HOW HIS CHARM-TRAPS HAVE FREED JANE FOREVER...

NOW I CAN FORGET THE PAST... MAKE BELIEVE IT WAS JUST SOME WEIRD STORY I ONCE READ.

NO HANGED WITCH ANCESTOR OF MINE WILL EVER DISTURB US... OR OUR FAMILY, AFTER WE'RE MARRIED!

THE END

WHEN JIM THOMAS AGREED TO GIVE UP HIS THOUGHTS AND DREAMS IN EXCHANGE FOR MONEY HE LITTLE REALIZED THAT HE WAS, IN FACT, SELLING HIS VERY SOUL TO A LOATHSOME EVIL SPIRIT WHEN HE MADE A

Bargain

with a

NO, WORM! A BARGAIN IS A BARGAIN. I HAVE DONE MY PART -- NOW YOU *MUST* DO YOURS!

YOU NEGLECTED TO CALL ME "*MASTER*" EARTHLING. THAT ALONE COULD END OUR BARGAIN.

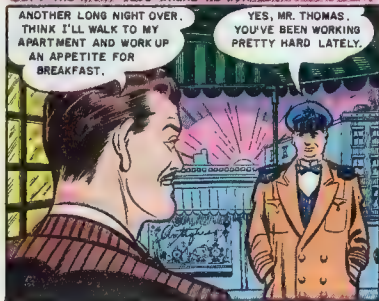
JIM! THERE'S NO ONE HERE -- NOTHING BUT THAT OLD DIRTY SACK!

JIM FIRST LEARNED OF THE *WORM* ONLY THIS MORNING. BUT IT SEEMED TO HIM AS THOUGH HE HAD KNOWN OF THE MONSTER FOREVER. IN FACT, EARLY THIS MORNING WHEN HE LEFT THE NIGHT CLUB WHERE HE WORKED.

ANOTHER LONG NIGHT OVER. THINK I'LL WALK TO MY APARTMENT AND WORK UP AN APPETITE FOR BREAKFAST.

YES, MR. THOMAS. YOU'VE BEEN WORKING PRETTY HARD LATELY.

I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING. AS SOON AS "38" KELLY, MY BOSS, FINDS OUT THAT I BORROWED FROM THE FUNDS OF THE CLUB IT WILL BE CURTAINS FOR ME AND MY JOB.



PREOCCUPIED AS HE WAS WITH HIS MONEY PROBLEMS, JIM PASSES WITHIN A FEW FEET OF THE MALIGNANT MONSTER...

...AH, YES, YOUNG MAN. NOW I KNOW ALL THAT I NEED TO KNOW. YOU NEED MONEY...BADLY. SOON... I'LL VISIT YOU.



HALF-DRUGGED WITH WEARINESS AND WORRY, JIM MADE HIS WAY TO HIS APARTMENT AND STARTED GETTING READY FOR BED.

THAT HUMMING SOUND. IT'S GHASTLY



JIM HUNG TO THE WINDOW TO SEE WHAT COULD BE THE ORIGIN OF SUCH AN UNEARTHLY SOUND.

THE STREET IS EMPTY SAVE FOR THAT DIRTY SACK. BUT STILL THE HUMMING GOES ON... AND LOUDER!



AH, YOUNG MAN, I SEE YOU HEARD MY CALL. THANK YOU. NOW, IF I MAY COME UP AND HAVE A WORD WITH YOU

WHA WHAT? I'M DREAMING!

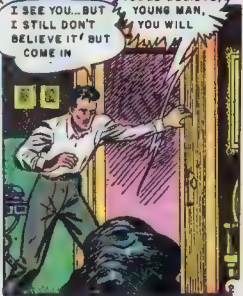


NO, I AM NO DREAM, EARTHLING. RATHER I AM A REALITY AND CAN HELP YOU. PLEASE BE SO KIND AS TO MEET ME AT YOUR DOOR



ONE CAN WELL IMAGINE JIM'S STATE OF MIND AS HE WAITED FOR THE MYSTERIOUS CREATURE TO ARRIVE AND YET...IT HAD SAID IT COULD HEAR HIM. HE'D HAD TO BELIEVE, YOU'LL BELIEVE, YOUNG MAN, YOU WILL

I SEE YOU...BUT I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT! BUT COME IN



STUNNED, BUT PARTIALLY PROTECTED BY HIS MIND THAT INSISTED THAT ALL THIS COULD ONLY BE A DREAM, HE WATCHED THE SHORT, OBESE THING WADDLE ACROSS THE ROOM TO TURN AND STAND BEFORE HIS FIREPLACE, FACING HIM. JIM KNEW HE HAD TO LISTEN TO IT, BUT EVERY NERVE IN HIS BODY WAS BEGGING HIM TO RUN...TO SCREAM...

WHA--WHAT DO YOU WANT?

NOW--TO BUSINESS, YOUNG MAN. YOU NEED MONEY. I, TOO, NEED SOMETHING. I HAVE THE MONEY YOU NEED. WHILE YOU CAN GIVE ME WHAT I NEED, AND WANT

SOMETHING QUITE UNIMPORTANT TO YOU. I WANT YOUR THOUGHTS--EVEN YOUR VERY DREAMS!

NOW WE'RE BOTH CRAZY! HAH-HAH-HAH!

JIM KNEW SOMEHOW THAT ALL OF THIS WAS REALLY HAPPENING--THAT HE WAS BEING MADE AN OFFER--AN OFFER OF A BARGAIN...

SHOW ME THE COLOR OF YOUR MONEY, WORM, AND YOU CAN HAVE ALL THE THOUGHTS AND DREAMS YOU WANT.

WHAT? YOU DARE ADDRESS ME AS **WORM!**

TO YOU, I AM THE MASTER! NEVER, NEVER FORGET THAT IF YOU VALUE YOUR WORTHLESS LIFE!!

THERE CAME A ROAR, THUDDING POUNDING DARKNESS, AND IT WAS ALL OVER THE CREATURE WAS GONE! BEWILDERED, TERRIFIED, JIM STUMBLES TO HIS BED TO SLEEP IT OFF.

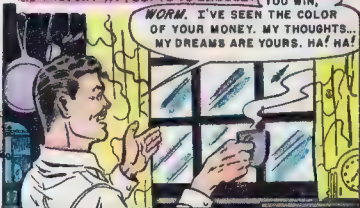
THE TELEPHONE! WHO COULD BE CALLING AT THIS HOUR OF THE MORNING?

RINGING

ARCHIE THE BOOKIE? YEAH! YEAH! WHAT? I WON THIRTY GRAND? BUT I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A...UNH, OH SURE, IT WAS MY BET. YEAH, I'LL PICK IT UP THIS MORNING.



THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS WON ON A HORSE RACE! WON WHEN HE HADN'T EVEN BET! AND \$30,000 WAS THE EXACT SUM HE HAD TAKEN FROM "38" KELLY IN HIS UNLUCKY ATTEMPTS TO GAMBLE!



YOU WIN, WORM. I'VE SEEN THE COLOR OF YOUR MONEY. MY THOUGHTS... MY DREAMS ARE YOURS. HA! HA!

AFTER PICKING UP HIS WINNINGS FROM ARCHIE THE BOOKIE, JIM CALLS UPON HIS FIANCEE, BETH SUMMERS.

COME RIGHT ON IN, MR. THOMAS MISS BETH IS EXPECTING YOU

OH, JIM, I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU. I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO TELL YOU, SOMETHING FRIGHTFUL



I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME BY, JIM. I HAD THE MOST HORRIBLE DREAM JUST BEFORE I WOKE UP A BIT AGO. I WAS DREAMING OF YOU, AND YOU SUDDENLY TURNED INTO A BLACK SLUG-LIKE MONSTER.

WHA...WHAT? SAY THAT AGAIN!

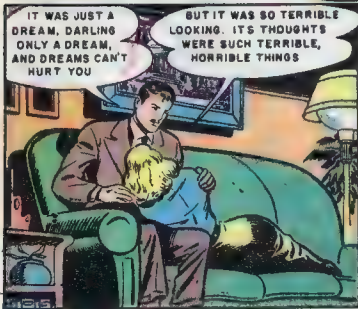


THEN, AS THE ONE GOOD AND PURE THING IN HIS LIFE, HIS FIANCEE, BETH, WENT ON TO DESCRIBE THE THING IN HER NIGHTMARE, JIM KNEW THAT HIS BARGAIN WITH THE WORM HAD BEEN FAR FROM ONE-SIDED.



IT WAS JUST A DREAM, DARLING ONLY A DREAM, AND DREAMS CAN'T HURT YOU

BUT IT WAS SO TERRIBLE LOOKING. ITS THOUGHTS WERE SUCH TERRIBLE, HORRIBLE THINGS



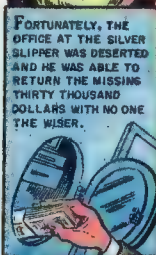
NOW THAT I HAVE THE MONEY, I MUST DESTROY THAT FOUL CREATURE. IT WILL BE NOTHING MORE THAN STEPPING ON AN ANT AT A PICNIC...OR A WORM!



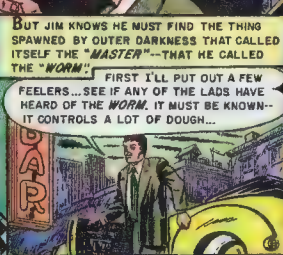


I KNOW I'M BEING SILLY, BUT IT WAS HORRIBLE AND IT DID UPSET ME.

FORGET IT--I DON'T THINK YOU'LL BE BOTHERED BY DREAMS LIKE THAT ANYMORE.

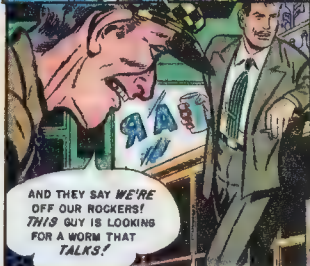


FORTUNATELY, THE OFFICE AT THE SILVER SLIPPER WAS DESERTED AND HE WAS ABLE TO RETURN THE MISSING THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS WITH NO ONE THE WISER.

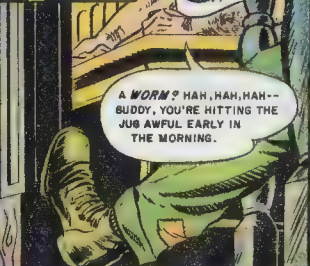


BUT JIM KNOWS HE MUST FIND THE THING SPAWNED BY OUTER DARKNESS THAT CALLED ITSELF THE "MASTER"--THAT HE CALLED THE "WORM."

FIRST I'LL PUT OUT A FEW FEELERS...SEE IF ANY OF THE LADS HAVE HEARD OF THE WORM. IT MUST BE KNOWN--IT CONTROLS A LOT OF DOUGH...



AND THEY SAY WE'RE OFF OUR ROCKERS! THIS GUY IS LOOKING FOR A WORM THAT TALKS!



A WORM? HAH, HAH, HAH--BUDDY, YOU'RE HITTING THE JUG AWFUL EARLY IN THE MORNING.

JIM LEAVES, REALIZING THAT HIS SEARCH FOR THE WORM IS NOT TO BE AS SIMPLE AS HE EXPECTED, STOPS AT THE NEAREST POLICE STATION.

JIM LETS HIM HAVE HIS FUN BUT PERSISTS IN HIS QUESTIONING. FINALLY THE BIG DESK SERGEANT GROWS ANGRY...



ARE YOU TRYING TO KID ME...ASKING ABOUT A TALKING WORM? WELL--WE HAVEN'T ANY WORMS HERE BUT WE DO HAVE A LOT OF RATS BEHIND OUR BARS. NO, NO!!



A WORM, YOU SAY? I HAVEN'T TIME FOR JOKES, MISTER. NOW GET OUT AND STAY OUT UNTIL YOU COME BACK ON LEGITIMATE BUSINESS!



MAYBE I'M CRAZY. MAYBE I DID JUST DREAM THIS MORNING AND BETH'S DREAM WAS NOTHING BUT A BIZARRE COINCIDENCE

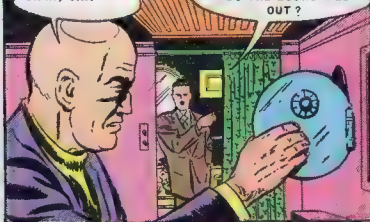
BUT THEN, JIM REMEMBERED THE \$30,000 THAT HED WON. THAT, HE KNEW, COULD NOT BE COINCIDENCE.



HARD ON TIRES, BUT I'VE GOT TO KNOW IN A HURRY IF THE MONEY IS HERE-- IT HAPPENED...AND THERE IS A WORM!

OH, IT'S YOU. COME ON IN, JIM.

IS EVERYTHING O.K., BOSS? DO THE BOOKS TALLY OUT?



IN A WAY, YES. I'VE SUSPECTED YOU HAVE BEEN KNOCKING DOWN FOR A LONG TIME, JIM. NOW I KNOW THE CASH IS SHORT--A FLAT TEN THOUSAND SHORT.

IT CAN'T BE. I PUT THE MONEY BACK THIS MORNING!

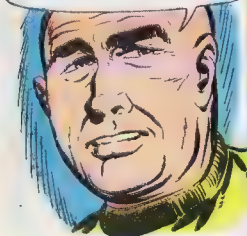


SO YOU DID-- BUT YOU FORGOT THE INTEREST! AND THE INTEREST COMES TO EXACTLY \$10,000-- YOU'LL PAY IT OR YOU'RE IN TROUBLE, KID!

JIM KNEW THAT HE WAS TRAPPED. THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO CALL UPON THAT OBSCURE MONSTER AGAIN.

DON'T FORGET-- TEN GRAND.

COME TO THINK OF IT, \$30,000 EXACTLY, WASN'T OUR BARGAIN--OUR BARGAIN WAS ALL THE MONEY I NEEDED



ONCE OUTSIDE, JIM MENTALLY CALLS FOR THE WORM...

I'M CALLING YOU, WORM.
I NEED YOU. SEND FOR ME...
SEND FOR ME.

IMMEDIATELY THE UNEARTHLY HUMMING OF THE WORM DINNED IN HIS EARS. JIM FOLLOWS THE SOUND...

JIM! JIM! I
HAD TO FOLLOW YOU.
WAIT FOR ME...
WAIT!

I'M COMING,
WORM. I HEAR
YOUR CALL.



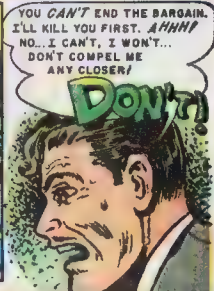
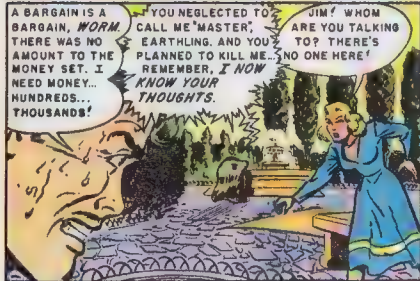
A BARGAIN IS A
BARGAIN, WORM.
THERE WAS NO
AMOUNT TO THE
MONEY SET. I
NEED MONEY...
HUNDREDS...
THOUSANDS!

YOU NEGLECTED TO
CALL ME 'MASTER',
EARTHLING. AND YOU
PLANNED TO KILL ME...
REMEMBER, I NOW
KNOW YOUR
THOUGHTS.

JIM! WHOM
ARE YOU TALKING
TO? THERE'S
NO ONE HERE!

YOU CAN'T END THE BARGAIN.
I'LL KILL YOU FIRST. AHHH!
NO... I CAN'T, I WON'T...
DON'T COMPEL ME
ANY CLOSER!

Don't!

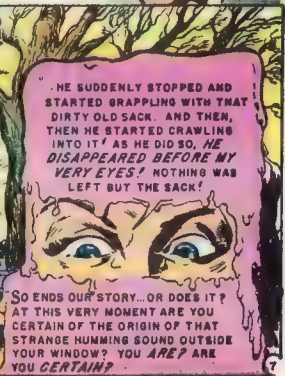


SOME HOURS LATER, POOR HEART-WEARY
BETH WAS STILL TELLING HER STORY
OVER AND OVER AGAIN TO SYMPATHETIC
BUT INCREDULOUS POLICE.

THAT'S ALL
I KNOW... WHEN JIM CAME BY
MY PLACE THIS MORNING,
HE WAS UPSET, TROUBLED...
I *KNEW* SOMETHING WAS
WRONG. SO... I FOLLOWED HIM.
I SAW HIM RUN THROUGH
THIS DESERTED GARDEN
SHOUTING MADLY.

HE SUDDENLY STOPPED AND
STARTED GRAPPLING WITH THAT
DIRTY OLD SACK. AND THEN,
THEN HE STARTED CRAWLING
INTO IT! AS HE DID SO, HE
DISAPPEARED BEFORE MY
VERY EYES! NOTHING WAS
LEFT BUT THE SACK!

SO ENDS OUR STORY... OR DOES IT?
AT THIS VERY MOMENT ARE YOU
CERTAIN OF THE ORIGIN OF THAT
STRANGE HUMMING SOUND OUTSIDE
YOUR WINDOW? YOU ARE? ARE
YOU CERTAIN?



TERRIFIC BARGAINS

Take your pick ... Try at our risk!

Act fast! Any of these terrific bargains will write in surprise. Send us your choice. Pay low price when you receive. A few cents postage and tax when convenient.

10 DAY FREE TRIAL

Then try for 10 full days at OUR RISK! Full price back unless it fails to please you. You have nothing to lose! We take all the risk! **SEND COUPON NOW!**



4.95

6.98

7.98

Smart SWISS Watch
A ready, accurate, handsome watch for men and boys. Central drive second hand. Low-impedance. Unmistakable crystal. A few cents postage and tax when convenient.

Ladies' SPORTEX Watch
Daily, precise—yet so accurate and sturdy! Swiss jewel movement. Unmistakable crystal. Luminous dial for night reading. Absolutely guaranteed—money back if not pleased within 10 days.

New CALENDAR Watch
NOW—the watch that tells the date, hour, minutes, seconds at a glance! Date changes automatically every 24 hours! A handsome, precision watch you'll wear with pride.



THE CHAMPION

Sure Winner!

Super-special quality! Absolutely amazing! Really massive and MARVEL! Here is KARAT GOLD PLATED, Big PEARLS DIAMOND in center flanked by two others. It's the champion of rings at a bargain low price.

4.19



PULL TRIGGER!

GUN

CIGARETTE LIGHTER

Fill the trigger, and BANG—your cigarette is lit! Perfect replica of a deadly pistol. Looks so real it's sure to scare them! **SHOCKED METAL** construction, enduring **CHROME** finish. Fully **AUTOMATIC**—a sure fire lighter, made to give years of thrilling satisfaction. Our special **REDUCED** price to you, only **don't miss this terrific bargain!**

1.98



BIG FIVE
Extra heavy ring for big time men. 5 Pseudo Diamonds of great military set in Natural Gold color.

SKULL & X-Bones
Amazing—eyes flash wildly with red glow. Gold plated, mysterious looking. Big 2.67 value at—

"THE ROYALE"
Looks like a potent! Blazing Ruby-red color stone flanked by 2 Pseudo Diamonds. Last word in manly 3.48 styling. Only—

DIRECT-TO-YOU on 10-day FREE Trial!



SPECIAL 6.95

Wonder 4-in-1 Stop CHRONOGRAPH

Try to beat this bargain anywhere in the U.S. A 4-in-1 imported Swiss **CHRONOGRAPH** and **VICTOR** watch movement. Set of all you can try it for 10 full days at OUR RISK!

11 — WONDER FEATURES — 11

It's a tachometer, scientometer, **DOUBLE** Push Button **STOP** watch, it measures **SPEED** as well as **DISTANCE** of horse and show races, sports, planes, boats, moving objects. Actually has **SPLIT-SECOND** calibration, unbreakable crystal, snap-second hand, luminous numerals & hands, sturdy **SHOCK-RESIST** case. Everyone wants one—students, soldiers, sailors, aviators, race fans, sportsmen, photographers, engineers and all active men. A wonderful timekeeper. **UNLIMITED GUARANTEE EXCLUSIVE OF PARTS!** Never a charge for shilling labor. Price with full instructions **6.95** & gift box

Glamour WEDDING Rings



Gift of a lifetime! Satisfaction guaranteed or full price back, quick! Special sale price.

Very beautiful and luxurious! These perfectly matched Engagement and Wedding rings (diamonds, Diamond and White Gold) are selling for \$500.00 and more! The full price back, quick! Special sale price.

Super-Power Field Glasses



UNHEARD OF VALUE! Extra Big size **SUPER-POWER** Field Glasses, streamlined design, rugged all-metal construction, automatic distance control, carrying strap and **POWERFUL** complete binoculars. Distant people, objects, mountains, wild animals, sports, etc., appear as if only looking at your feet away. You'd expect to pay **MANY** times our sensation—**2.94** at low price of



"MAGIC" WEATHER ROSE

Amazing! Magical gift. "Magic" Rose will predict weather changes by its color! Set up in your home or office. No matter how far away, a change in weather will be shown by the color of the petals. Only 1.98

Send NO money!

CONSUMERS MART, Dept. 141-K
131 West 33rd Street, New York 1, N. Y.

Write articles desired on lines below. Pay price shown plus a few cents postage and return tax on delivery. **Then TRY 10 DAYS FREE!** You take no risk—**FULL PRICE BACK UNLESS THRILLED AND DELIGHTED!**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____



Men's INITIAL Ring
Your own **INITIAL** in raised **GOLD** color. Effect set in a **2 Sparkling Pseudo DIAMONDS** imported from Europe. Rich Gold Plated, with pride—enjoy a lifetime. Mention letter de- **2.97** sired. Only—

ETERNAL LOVE WEDDING SET



Amazing! Sentimental and very lovely! Imported from Europe, set in a **SWISS** **KARAT GOLD** color, exquisite design. Your price for both—**4.95**, yet our best price, **\$7.95** and more! The source of love, life and light. **Share a LIFE-LOVE** with it. Try at our risk! **Price with full instructions** **7.95** & gift box

KILL THESE HAIR-DESTROYING GERMS

STAPHYLOCOCCUS
ALBUS

WITH WARD'S FORMULA

MOROCOCCUS

PITYROSPORUM
OVALE

MICROBACILLUS

NOTHING, Absolutely nothing
known to Science can do more to

SAVE YOUR HAIR

Beware of your itchy scalp, hair loss, dandruff, head scales, unpleasant head odors! Nature may be warning you of approaching baldness. Heed Nature's warning! Treat your scalp to scientifically prepared Ward's Formula.

Millions of trouble-breeding bacteria, living on your sick scalp (see above) are killed on contact. Ward's Formula kills not one, but **all four** types of these destructive scalp germs now recognized by many medical authorities as a significant cause of baldness. Kill these germs—don't risk letting them kill your hair growth.

ENJOY THESE 5 BENEFITS IMMEDIATELY

1. Kills these 4 types of germs that retard normal hair growth—on contact
2. Removes ugly infectious dandruff—fast
3. Brings hair-nourishing blood to scalp—quickly
4. Stops annoying scalp itch and burn—instantly
5. Starts wonderful self-massaging action—within 3 seconds

Once you're bald, that's it, friends! There's nothing you can do. Your hair is gone forever. So are your chances of getting it back. But Ward's Formula, used as directed, keeps your sick scalp free of itchy dandruff, seborrhea, and stops the hair loss they cause. Almost at once your hair looks thicker, more attractive and alive.

We don't ask you to believe us. Thousands of men and women—first skeptical just as you are—have proved what we say. Read their grateful letters. Study the guarantee—it's better than a free trial! Then try Ward's Formula at our risk. Use it for only 10 short days. You must enjoy all the benefits we claim—or we return not only the price you pay—but **DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK**. You be the judge! © Ward Laboratories Inc., 1430 Broadway, New York 18, N.Y.

TO SAVE YOUR HAIR ACT NOW

Send coupon today for 10-day offer. Send No Money

ACT TODAY or YOU MAY BE TOO LATE!

Ward Laboratories Inc.,
1430 Broadway, Dept. 544-N, New York 18, N.Y.

Rush Ward's Formula to me of once. I will pay postman two dollars plus postage. I must be completely satisfied within 10 days, or you **GUARANTEE** refund of **DOUBLE MY MONEY BACK** upon return of bottle and unused portion.

Name
Address
City Zone State
☐ Check here if you enclose \$2.00 with order, and we will pay postage. Same refund offer holds, of course. APO, FPO, Canada & Foreign add 50¢; no C.O.D.s.

DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

SCALP ITCH
FALLING
HAIR

DANDRUFF

HEAD
ODORS

Proof!

We got letters like these every day from grateful men and women all over the world.

I must admit I didn't have much faith in it, but I hadn't been using Ward's one week before I could see it was helping me. I could feel my hair getting thicker.

E. K., Cleveland, Ohio
Out of all the Hair Experts I went to, I've gotten the most help from one bottle of Ward's Formula.
C. La M., Philadelphia, Pa.

After using Ward's for only 12 days, my hair has stopped falling out.
R. W. C., Cicero, Ill.
I am tickled to death with the results. In just two weeks' time—no dandruff! W. T. W., Portola, Cal.
I feel encouraged to say that the insurmountable scalp itch which has bothered me for 5 years is now gone.
J. M. K., Columbus, Ohio

Guarantee

This written guarantee entitles you not only to return of price paid for Ward's Formula, but **Double Your Money Back** unless you actually SEE, FEEL and ENJOY all benefits herein claimed in only ten days. The test is at our risk. All you do is return unused portion or the empty bottle unless completely satisfied.

Ward Laboratories Inc.

Reducing Specialist Says:

LOSE WEIGHT

WHERE
IT
SHOWS
MOST

REDUCE

MOST ANY
PART OF
THE BODY
WITH

SPOT REDUCER: KEEP SLIM AT HOME WITH RELAXING, SOOTHING MASSAGE!



UNDERWRITERS
LABORATORY
APPROVED

**ELECTRIC
Spot
Reducer**



FOR GREATEST BENEFIT IN REDUCING by massage use Spot REDUCER with or without electricity—Also used as an aid in the relief of points for which massage is indicated.

TAKE OFF UGLY FAT!

Don't Stay FAT—You Can LOSE POUNDS and INCHES SAFELY without risking HEALTH

Take pounds off—keep slim and trim with Spot Reducer! Remarkable new invention which uses one of the most effective reducing methods employed by masseurs and Turkish baths—MASSAGE!

With the SPOT REDUCER you can now enjoy the benefits of RELAXING, SOOTHING massage in the privacy of your own home! Simple to use—just plug in, grasp handle and apply over most any part of the body—stomach, hips, chest, neck, thighs, arms, buttocks, etc. The relaxing, soothing massage breaks down FATTY TISSUES, tones the muscles and flesh, and the increased awakened blood circulation carries away

waste fat—helps you regain and keep a firmer and more GRACEFUL FIGURE!

YOUR OWN PRIVATE MASSEUR AT HOME

When you use the Spot Reducer, it's almost like having your own private masseur at home. It's fun reducing this way! It not only helps you reduce and keep slim—but also aids in the relief of those types of aches and pains—and tired nerves that can be helped by massage! The Spot Reducer is handsomely made of light weight aluminum and rubber and truly a beautiful invention you will be thankful you own. AC 110 volts.

TRY THE SPOT REDUCER 10 DAYS FREE IN YOUR OWN HOME!

Mail this coupon with only \$1 for your Spot Reducer on approval. Pay postman \$8.95 plus delivery—or send \$9.95 (full price) and we ship postage prepaid. Use it for ten days in your own home. Then if not delighted return Spot Reducer for full purchase price refund. Don't delay! You have nothing to lose—except ugly, embarrassing, undesirable pounds of FAT. MAIL COUPON now!

MAIL THIS COUPON NOW!

**SPOT REDUCER CO., Dept. E-640,
318 Market St., Newark, New Jersey**

Please send me the Spot Reducer for 10 days trial period. I enclose \$1, upon arrival I will pay postman only \$8.95 plus postage and handling. If not delighted I may return SPOT REDUCER within 10 days for prompt refund of full purchase price.

Name

Address

City State

**LOSE WEIGHT
OR NO CHARGE**

USED BY EXPERTS:

Thousands have lost weight this way—in hips, abdomen, legs, arms, necks, buttocks, etc. The same method used by stage, screen and radio personalities and leading reducing salons. The Spot Reducer can be used in your spare time, in the privacy of your own room. **ORDER IT TODAY!**

ALSO USE IT FOR ACES AND PAINS



CAN'T SLEEP:

Relax with electric Spot Reducer. See how soothing its gentle massage can be. Helps you sleep when massage can be of benefit.



MUSCULAR ACES:

A handy helper for transient relief of discomforts that can be aided by gentle, relaxing massage.

DARK MYSTERIES

3

OCT.-NOV. 1951

COVER HARRY HARRISON°

THE DREAD BOOK OF BETARIN GOLDFARB* & BAER* 8

THE GHOSTS FROM MARS VINCE NAPOLI 7

THE OCCULT NOTEBOOK OF DARK MYSTERIES TEXT 2

THE UNWILLING WITCH MOLNO° & ? 7

BARGAIN WITH A WORM PIERCE RICE? & HARRISON° 7